

Senate Unanimously Passes Rosa Parks Resolution

Tuesday, 15 November 2005

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., today said, "On the day that Rosa Parks died I came up with the idea of creating a statue of her to be placed in National Statuary Hall. I initially sought and requested Sen. John Kerry's (D-MA) and Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) cooperation and assistance in offering a companion bill in the Senate. Instead, Sen. McConnell introduced his own legislation. That legislation, S. Con. Res. 62, today passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

"Sen. McConnell's legislation would create a statue of Rosa Parks to be placed in the Rotunda, National Statuary Hall or the new Visitors Center in the U.S. Capitol. A bill that I, along with Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), introduced (H.R. 4145) specifies that a Rosa Parks statue should be placed in National Statuary Hall.

"While Senator McConnell's legislation is commendable, it is *not* a bill which is signed into law by the President and it is *not* supported by Rosa Parks' family or the Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. They support H.R. 4145 and a parallel bill introduced in the Senate by Senator John Kerry, S.1959.

"Sen. McConnell's legislation is a Concurrent Resolution which merely expresses the 'sense of the Congress,' which means it expires at the end of the 109th Congress and would have to be re-enacted in subsequent Congresses if the actions they contemplated have not been concluded by that point.

"My bill, H.R. 4145 - and its parallel, Sen. John Kerry's bill in the Senate, S.1959 - has broad bipartisan support with 207 House co-sponsors - 165 Democrats, 41 Republicans and 1 Independent.

"Both Senator Kerry and I shall continue to urge both the House and Senate to pass our bill - which specifies that the statue of Rosa Parks be placed in National Statuary Hall - so that it can be signed by the President on December 1, 2005, the 50th anniversary of her refusal to move to the back of the bus." Jackson concluded.